

the diplomatic service and the army. Nevertheless, the last remained the favourite *carriere* among young aristocrats as well as among many young men of the upper "*bourgeoisie*;" and the great majority of these having been, educated by ecclesiastics were, without doubt, prejudiced against the young Jews whom the regulations admitted among them. The prejudice was not, however, entirely religious, it was also a racial and a caste prejudice among those who belonged more or less to the old *noblesse*, and it was often in a sense patriotic, being inspired by a kind of distrust of Jewish rectitude. Indeed, even Jewish courage was questioned by some who forgot, or were not aware, that no little Jewish blood had flowed in the veins of such great fighters as Massdna, Soult, and Bernadotte.

The agitation against the French Jews had been growing slowly, then, for several years. An explosion was bound to come in any case, particularly as, with the exception of the one ministry which put down General Boulanger, the various French administrations over a lengthy period were deplorably weak. In the end the Dreyfus case became the battlefield of the parties which were contending for mastery. The outcry against the Jews was prompted, even among the Clericals, less by genuine religious motives than by political ones. The Jews were the pretext. Behind the onslaught on them, one on the Republic was being

engineered. One  
may add that the anti-Semitism which arose in  
France was  
naturally assisted by that which prevailed in  
Austria and  
in Russia. Moreover, the Russian alliance  
became in cer-  
tain respects [a factor of importance; and the  
slumbering  
hatred of Germany on being roused in  
connection with  
Dreyfus influenced thousands of patriotic  
people.